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2. *CONTRACTS—Inequality of parties in wealth and influence—Compromise.* Mere inequality in the wealth, power, and influence of parties to contracts cannot affect the validity of such contracts. And, where a compromise of a disputed liability for personal injuries has been deliberately entered into between the parties, it should not be set aside except upon the most satisfactory proof.

3. *POOR DEBTORS EXEMPTION—Exemption to widow—Sees. 3650 and 3653 of Code.* Under the plain language of sec. 3653 of the Code, the widow of a man having no children is entitled to have set apart to her, whether the estate of her husband is solvent or not, the articles enumerated in sec. 3650, and, if the administrator has sold them, she is entitled to their value.

HUTCHINS v. HUTCHINS.—Decided at Richmond, April 16, 1896.—*Keith, P:*

1. *DIVORCE—Husband's rights and duties—Cruelty by member of family.* The husband is the head of his family, and, as such, is entitled to select the place of residence of his family, and to say of whom the family circle shall consist. He is entitled to obedience and respect from his wife as long as he deserves it, but he owes to her the duty of protection from whatever danger may threaten her. If he permits the inmates of his house to treat her with cruelty, the cruelty is his, and she may leave his home without furnishing him with cause for divorce. A long series of vexations, culminating in charge of larceny, and a serious assault by a person of greatly superior physical force, is cruelty within the meaning of the law.

NICHOLSON v. GLOUCESTER CHARITY SCHOOL.—Decided at Richmond, April 16, 1896.—*Keith, P:*

1. *APPEALS—Cross appeals—Dismissal of one—Rule of Court IX.* Where a complainant, and a defendant whose rights are involved in the same question, both appeal from the same decree, but the complainant permits his appeal to be dismissed for failure to give the appeal bond, he may, nevertheless, under Rule IX. of this court, have his rights determined in the case in which the defendant appealed.

2. *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—Officer trustee—Judicial act—Recordation void.* The clerk of a county court in which a deed is to be recorded, cannot take and certify the acknowledgment of the grantor in a deed of trust to secure debts in which the clerk is the trustee. The act is a judicial act. A recordation on such an acknowledgment is void.

2. *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS BEFORE CORPORATOR OF ELEEMOSYNARY INSTITUTION WHICH IS BENEFICIARY.* A corporator in a purely eleemosynary institution, although he receives a small sum for attending each meeting of the board and for acting as its secretary, is not disqualified from taking the acknowledgment of a grantor in a deed of trust to secure a debt due such institution.

HOUGHTON AND OTHERS v. MOUNTAIN LAKE LAND Co.—Decided at Richmond, April 23, 1896.—*Harrison, J:*

1. *CHANCERY PRACTICE—Petition—Pleading and proof.* A petition may be filed in a pending suit asking to postpone the confirmation of a sale of real estate